

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FOR JACKSON OAKS TRAILS MEETING

May 7, 2007

A meeting was held on May 7, 2007 with the City of Morgan Public Works Department staff and the Jackson Oaks Association (JOA) to discuss the draft Trails and Natural Resources Study. The purpose of the meeting was to present the "Trails Study" and obtain comments and answer questions. Staff did clarify that this is only a "Study" and that all trail locations are conceptual. Also, staff said all trails proposed on private property would require willing land owners. In addition, staff presented a timeline representing the process of implementing and approving this "Study" and eventually converting it into a Trails Master Plan.

Approximately 150 residents attended the meeting with only six people supporting the presence of some form of a trail system. Three City staff members, David Gittleston, Julie Behzad and Karl Bjarke presented the Trails Study to the JOA. The four major issues presented by the Jackson Oaks home owners regarding constructing new trails in the open space area are; fire, security, parking and privacy. The list below is a more complete list of all of the issues raised.

1. walking trails vs. multi use trails? what is being proposed?
2. who is on the steering committee?
3. why didn't the city check with JO before starting the project?
4. fire hazard
5. lack of fire protection / no adequate fire stations
6. cc & r doesn't allow grading?
7. open space is owned by the city? anybody can use it?
8. there used to be a field in JO area being used by the city, there was no problem?
9. who will maintain the trails? what are we planning to do with the trash build up?
10. Henry Coe Park has lot of trails, why not used those trails?
11. how about parking? where are they supposed to park?
12. there is no police patrolling the area. will there be any security measure taken for this project?
13. there are some private driveway/roads being proposed to be used to access the trails. can the city do that?
14. will the city pay to install fences, window treatment if necessary?
15. how can we change the general plan so it wouldn't call for any trails in JO area?
16. how about the negative effect on the property values?
17. shouldn't there be restriction on how close these trails could be to the property lines?
18. how about liability issue of public on some private properties since there is no fencing? will the city be liable?
19. nobody uses the trails system that we already have in place.
20. the proposed trails will cause additional erosion and landslides.
21. the terrain is too steep for trail use.
22. the wildlife will be impacted, and disappear
23. proposed trail will cause an increase in crime/burglary, and reduce privacy.
24. proposed trail will introduce intruders into the JO private neighborhood.
25. there are 150+ registered sex offenders between Morgan Hill and Gilroy

26. can the city notify all of the residents when there are additional meetings on this topic?
27. will there be lights on the trail?
28. the decision for trails has already been decided and the city is going through the steps.
29. add a trail connection between clubhouse and Ridgeview Court so residents don't have to walk all the way around.
30. the streets are already not safe to walk on and the trails would provide a safe place to do so.
31. Flaming Oak Court too narrow for any parking at all.
32. proposed trail will increase homeowners insurance
33. has the fire dept or police looked at the plan?
34. residents took a vote at the meeting, (6 yes votes and 150+ no votes)
35. residents moved there to enjoy the peace and quiet surroundings as they are.
36. what about restrooms?
37. there is only one road in and out of the neighborhood. The trails will cause increased traffic and parking issues.

At the end of the meeting, the JOA residents held an informal vote to remove the proposed trails from the Trails Study. The outcome was unanimous. In addition, staff told JOA that we would provide them with our meeting minutes and improve the downloading of the Trails Study on the City's website, as some individuals were not able to access it.